ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1948.

JOINT REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

... H. Health
25 OCT 1949
4.

The Chairman and Members,

We herewith beg to submit our joint Annual Report in respect of the Barmouth Urban District for the year ended 31st December, 1948 :-

Statistics and social conditions of the District. :-

Area of the District	1,347 acres.
Estimated Resident Population	2,350
Approximate Summer Population	12,000-15,000.
Population Census 1921.	3,553.
Population Census 1931.	2,645.
Number of inhabited Houses at the end of 1948 .	871
Rateable Value	£15,574 (1/4/48)
Product of Penny Rate.	£62.

Social Conditions including the Chief Occupation of the Inhabitants and the Influence of any particular Occupation on the Public Health.

Barmouth is primarily a sea-side resort and the inhabitants are therefore dependent mainly upon summer visitors for their livelihood Thus many of the houses, large and small, may be described as boarding houses . There are no large industries but there are a number of the small industries which, when taken collectively, absorb many of the work people. These industries include two laundries, a chemical factory, and a number of garages. During the summer season a number of the male inhabitants are engaged in the boats-for-hire business.

In none of these industries has the work any noticeable effect upon the general health of the workers.

Live Birth Rate for England and Wales 1948.

Death Rate for England & Wales. 1948 .

General Provision of Health Services. :-

Public Health Officers of the Authority :-

Medical :-

There is one part-time Medical Officer of Health. The County Council are considering a scheme whereby part-time Medical Officer of Health will be dispensed with and where such work will be centralised under the County Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector.:-

There is one Sanitary Inspector. He was appointed early in the year and in addition to his duties as Sanitary Inspector he is the Council's Surveyor and Engineer. He holds

1. The recognised Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

2. The Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Public Works and Buildings.

3. The Testamur of the Institution of Municipal Engineers.

Laboratory Facilities. :-

At the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) Infectious Diseases :- There is no Isolation Hospital in the County and therefore our cases are sent to the Isolation Hospitals in the adjoining Counties of Caernarvonshire and Cardiganshire.

(b) Non-infectious Cases. :- The Ambulance Service is now controlled by the County Council, the nearest ambulance being stationed at Dolgelley.

There is however a Red Cross Ambulance Service stationed at Barmouth and considerable use is made of this.

Vital Statistics. :-

		Male.	Female.	Total.
(a)	Live Births. :-			
	Legitimate			
	Illegitimate			
(b)	Still Births. :-			
	Legitimate			
	Illegitimate.			

(c) Deaths of infants under One Year of Age.

Legitimate.
Illegitimate.

(d) Rates per 1,000 of Estimated Population :-

General Death Rate.
Total Tuberculosis.Death Rate.
Pthisis DeathRate.
Cancer Death Rate.
Birth Rate.
Still-Birth Rate.
Scarlet Fever Death Rate.
Diphtheria Death Rate.

(e) Rates per 1,000 Total Births(Live and Still Births)

Still Birth Rate.
Maternity Mortality Total.
Sepsis.
Other Forms.

(f) Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

Infant Mortality.
Legitimate Infants.
Illegitimate Infants.
Diarrhoea under Two Years.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban Area.

(1) Water Supply. :- Barmouth Council possesses two separate water supply systems and both systems are in use today. The first system, the original supply to Barmouth, is comparatively small and consists of a service reservoir at Ceilwart Ucha. The source of supply is a mountain stream but unfortunately, after a period of prolonged drought, it is liable to dry up. As we do not experience frequent prolonged dry periods this system may be considered efficient during eleven months of the year. This system, however, is used mainly for supp lying the Barmouth Railway Station but, being interconnected with the second system, it is used for supplying the town in general when repairs are required to the other system.

The second system has its source at Bodlyn lake, a natural lake extended by the construction of a masonry/concrete dam. This lake, situated at an elevation of 1,260 feet above Ordanace Datum, if fed from a gathering ground of approximately 900 acres in extent and impounds over 102½ million gallons. . The first claim from the lake is by way of Compensation Water amounting to 480,000 gallons daily whilst the estimated maximum draw-off for domestic and other uses in 500,000 gallons a day. Thus allowing for a daily run-off of nearly one million gallons the supply is ample to meet the needs of the district during the longest known period of prolonged drought.

From the lake the water is conveyed through a 6 inch diameter main which discharges, uncontrolled, into a service reservoir of 163,000 gallons capacity situated at Eithinfynydd at an elevation of 490 feet above sea level. Because of this uncontrolled discharge the original pressure reducing valves along this particular section of main were removed many years ago. The water, surplus to the general needs, passes into the overflow finally discharging into a nearby ditch.

The trunk main from the reservoir to the southern end of the town of Barmouth is 7 inches in diameter and en-route it passes through the Booster Plant, its purpose being to maintain an adequate supply to all parts of the district at the peak draw-off periods during the summer time.

It may be interesting to know that since 1930 several reports upon the water supply system have been prepared by previous Surveyor's and in all these reports extensive duplication of certain sections of pipe-line were suggested. Every year complaints arising from lack of supply in the upper reaches of the town were received by the Council but this discomfort was said to be due to the general increase in consumption. Therefore in order to supplement the supply there seemed to be no alternative but to consider the recommendations included in these reports. The conditions which prevailed during 1947 seemed to strengthen the arguments put forward and the cost of electricity used in boosting reached the colossal figure of £400. Naturally the Council became alarmed and, with the appointment of the present Surveyor, they instructed him to devote much of his time to try and solve the serious problem of the supply

Early in 1948 the Surveyor arranged for the preliminary operation of scraping of the main pipe lines. By early summer over eight miles had been scraped although to cover this distance the work, it must be admitted, had to be rushed through. This operation had a remarkable effect upon the supply in general and proof of this is given by the fact that during the year the actual cost of electricity for boosting amounted to roughly £30.

During the autumn several lines of subsidiary mains were scraped and now it may be safely stated that every building connected to the public supply has a constant supply of water throughout the 24 hours of the day.

The final scraping operations will be made early in 1949 and when this is complete it should be possible to cut-out boosting altogether.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.:-

The town of Barmouth is sewered but the remainder of the district is dependent upon other methods of sewage disposal. The combined system is in operation and disposal is by direct discharge into tidal waters at two points half a mile or so apart. The main outfall is 33 inches in diameter and discharges into Cardigan Bay on the north westerly side of the town. The secondary outfall, 12 inches in diameter, discharges into the estuary by the harbour.

Both these outfalls have been badly damaged, the main outfall from the effects of the storms and the other outfall from the continual changing of the river bed thus undermining the pipes. The Council is therefore faced with the serious problem of reconstruction which will involve a heavy expenditure of a capital nature. Reconstruction schemes have been prepared in both cases and in the case of the main outfall work has commenced. Unfortunately this latter scheme cannot be completed in its entirety at the present time owing to the difficulties of obtaining the necessary materials. The work being carried out includes the laying of 120 yards of 20 inch diameter pipes which, although intended to act as the stormwater overflow in the final scheme, will, in the meantime, act as the new outfall. Thus the actual point of discharge, previously just below the promenade, has been removed 120 yards nearer low water mark. The true outfall when constructed will discharge below the low water mark and its length will be approximately 300 yards.

With regards to the un-sewered section of the district, involving Llanaber in particular, a comprehensive sewerage scheme has been prepared and the work should be carried out as soon as is practicable.

3. Rivers and Streams. :-

No complaints of pollution of rivers and streams were received during the year and no action was taken by the Council.

4. Closet Accommodation. :-

Number of Water Closets	-	1,180.
Number of Pail Closets	-	17.
Privies or other closets	-	12.
Number of closets serving more than one house		10.

5. Public Cleansing :-

During the early part of the year refuse collection was partly done by the Council and partly by Contract. Two Contractors were engaged, one for the Llanaber District and one for the old Barmouth area. This system proved unsatisfactory as well as uneconomical and the Council was advised to cancel these arrangements and to cover the whole district with their own labour. The New method is quite satisfactory.

Parts of the town are cleared three times a week, other parts twice a week, and the Llanaber district once a week. An ordinary lorry, covered with a suitable hood, is used for this work but its useful life has passed. A new properly constructed refuse collecting vehicle has been ordered and delivery is expected during the first half of 1949. All refuse disposed of at a central tip under the partly-controlled system.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of Inspections	138
Notices - Formal	NIL
Informal	20

Inspections.

Bake houses	4
Cowsheds.	16.
Dairies	6
Milkshops	NIL
Ice Cream Premises.	25.
Fried Fish Premises.	6.
Factories	16

(4)

Inspections (continued)

Restaurants	3.
Government Slaughter House.	79.
Blocked Drains found	19
Notices served re Defective Drains Informal-	6.

Camping Sites.:-

The number of sites in the area which were used for Camping purposes during the year. 4.

The number of Camping Sites in respect of which Licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act.1936. 1.

The estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season. 300.

Smoke Abatement. :-

No action was considered necessary under this heading. The chimney stack at one Laundry became defective but the owners provided a new stack thus abating the nuisance previously caused

Swimming Baths. :- None.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc :-

26 Council Houses were let during the year but where the tenants came from infested premises their furniture and bedding were thoroughly fumigated and disinfected prior to removal.

Schools :-

During the early part of the year we must admit that the Primary School was not kept in a very clean condition. Presumably the number of coal fires and the defective flues accounted for this condition but with the installation of central heating there should be an improvement.

7. Housing :- Twenty six traditional type of houses were completed during the year. Thirty two Airey Houses are being built and these have reached an advanced stage of construction . Barmouth is very unfortunate in view of the fact that there are very few suitalbe housing sites in the town and the small areas of undeveloped land must be acquired compulsorily. There are 4 Compulsory Purchase Orders now in operation and until these are cleared no further progress can be made.

There are many insanitary and substandard houses in the District and it is suprising that no action was taken under the Housing Acts prior to 1939 to deal with them. The Council is now taking an active interest in Housing generally and when an unfit house becomes vacant it is dealt with under the relevant section of the 1936 Housing Act.

The demand for housing accommodation is very acute and in order to realise the true demand a fresh survey is being made.

No houses were built by private enterprise during the year.

(a) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year. :-

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects(under the Public Health or Housing Acts). 30

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 58.

2 (a) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925) NIL

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose NIL

3. Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 20 (new survey)

4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. NIL.

(b) Remedy for Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.

1. Proceedings under Sections 9,10, and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

(a) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. NIL

(b) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- NIL

1. By Owners. NIL

2. By Local Authority in default of owners. NIL

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(a) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6

(b) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice.

(1) By Owners 6
(2) By Local Authority in default of owners. NIL.

3. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936

(a) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 1

(b) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. NIL

4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 6

(b) Number of separate tenements or undergound rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. NIL

(3) Housing Act 1936. Part V - Overcrowding :-

1. a. Number of Dwelling overcrowded at the end of the year. Not known.

b. Number of Families dwelling therein. Do.

c. Number of persons dwelling therein. do.

2. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. NIL.

3. a. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 4

b. Number of persons concerned in such cases, 22

4. Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. NIL

Inspection and Supervision of Food. :-

Milk Supply :- Most of the milk supplied comes from outside the district. The personnel in charge of deliveries and the utensils used for conveying the milk appear to be very clean. It is unfortunate that some of the milk must to delivered in large metal containers instead of in sealed bottles. Apparently milk bottles are difficult to obtain hence the retailers must use the metal containers.

Meat and Other Foods. :-

All animals slaughtered at the Government slaughterhouse are inspected prior to the meat being taken off the premises. It is difficult on occasions to inspect the meat.

The premises used for slaughtering are far from being satisfactory. The building is small and dark and no inspection can be carried out except under artificial light. Animals are stunned and slaughtered in full view of dressed meat. Possibly the most serious complaint is the lack of sterilising facilities and knives used for inspecting infected meat must be used for examining the good meat. The knives are washed in running water and sometimes the blade is passed through a gas jet but these precautions are not sufficient to sterilise them.

During the year some 5,617 lbs of meat and 84 lbs of corned beef was condemned at the slaughterhouse as being unfit for human consumption. In the slaughtered meat tuberculosis accounted for 2,754 lbs and included only for whole or part carcasses. A certain proportion of the remaining weight of 2,863 lbs covered tubercular organs but no separate weighing of these organs is available Fluky livers is a common disease and accounts for much of the condemned meat.

	Cattle Excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
No of Animals killed and inspected.	251.		86.	2,526.	11
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. Percentage of the number affected with disease other than tuberculosis		2			
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned.	1	5	1		
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.		2 parts carcasses			
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.					

Records of the number and class of animals slaughtered are not kept and therefore the above table cannot be completed.

Foodstuffs, other than fresh meat, were condemned in fairly large quantities. Possibly there were over 50 varieties, amongst them being 60 cases of peaches in one consignment, 280 lbs sugar, 151 lbs of dates, foreign mussels, and fresh fish.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during Year.

	Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox			
Scarlet Fever.	2		
Diphtheria.			
Enteric Fever(including Paratyphoid)			
Puerperal Pyrexia.			
Pneumonia.			
Other Diseases generally notifiable.			
Measles.	2		
Whooping Cough.			
Erysipelas .			
Other Diseases notifiable locally.			
TOTAL.	4		

Tuberculosis - New Cases and Mortality during the Year.

Age.	New Cases Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory		Non Respirator	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number 1 year.								
1 - 5 years.								
5 -10 years.								
10-15 years.								
15-20 years.								
20-25 years .		1	1	1				
25-30 years.								
30-40 years.								
40-50 years.								
50-60 years.								
Over 60								
TOTALS.		1	1	1				